Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

28 March 2017

Mr. John Greenewald, Jr.
[redacted]

Reference: F-2017-00105 / NSA Case: 79395

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

In the course of processing your 12 October 2014 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for **records pertaining to the sinking of the Russian submarine "Kursk" which occurred on August 12, 2000,** the National Security Agency located CIA material and referred it to us on 17 October 2016 for review and direct response to you.

We have reviewed the enclosed three documents which we determined can be released to you in their entirety. Copies of the documents are enclosed.

If you have questions regarding our response, you may seek assistance from CIA's FOIA Public Liaison. You may reach the FOIA Public Liaison at:

703-613-1287 (FOIA Hotline)

Sincerely,

Allison Fong
Information and Privacy Coordinator

Enclosures

DOCID: 4322233

*** Document 393 of 406 for FBSY ***
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WARN WARNING: TOPIC: DOMESTIC POLITICAL, LEADER, MEDIA, MILITARY, TERRORISM

SERI SERIAL: CEP20011015000163

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ*SUBJ: TAKE 1 OF 2--Rumors About Gazprom-Media, Kursk, Anthrax Sources, Others Cited

SOUR SOURCE: Moscow Moskovskiy Komsomolets in Russian 15 Oct 01 P 2

DOCID: 4322233

TEXT TEXT:

["Rumors Rated" feature compiled by Inara Filatova, Marina Romanova, and Yekaterina Deyeva]
[FBIS Translated Text] One Large TV Channel Instead of Two Small Ones; Rumor from Ostankino [subhead]

The most implausible rumors emerged last week in the corridors of Ostankino. First, there was a discussion of Gazprom's intention to get rid of the television channels under its control. TNT workers were particularly concerned: Kokh, so the rumor makers claim, has only just said that he has gotten more money for the channel before resigning from Gazprom-media. Now a very gloomy mood prevails at TNT: They are saying that journalists have little hope of getting their salaries in the immediate future and their long-term prospects are not clear at all. A second rumor is that the authorities intend to attack TV-6 -- they allegedly intend to close the channel using the strategy with which we are already familiar. But who will get this frequency is so far unclear to the rumor makers too. And, finally, the most "global rumor" -- they say the Kremlin has decided to merge ORT and RTR -- and almost in time for the New Year there will be one big channel instead of two.

The Kursk Will Never Be Raised; Rumors from Roslyakovo [subhead]

It has been announced officially that the delivery of the Kursk to the Roslyakovo floating dock is being postponed for a week. But according to rumors from Roslyakovo itself the submarine will never be raised at all.

The reason is allegedly the cracks in the nuclear reactor formed when the torpedo exploded. While the submarine was lying on the sea bed under the water pressure the reactor remained hermetically sealed and the radiation did not "leak" from it. If the Kursk is raised then in the specialists' opinion the cracks will spread and radiation pollution will not be avoided. Another story is that at least two missile containers close to the blast in the first compartment were damaged.

The reason for the rumors is the lack of any visible reasons for delaying the final stage of the operation -- the weather in the region of Roslyakovo is normal and the equipment is operating without a hitch. Why then are the salvage operators being dilatory? According to other rumors this is being done to give time for the divers to work as they are now secretly seeking the ship's log in the submarine hull -- you never know what may be written there about the causes of the tragedy.... And the most improbable rumor is that the Northern Fleet is already preparing to transport the Kursk inside the Arctic Circle and to encase it in concrete and sink it to a great depth.

You can understand the outspoken rumor-makers: After all, the longer the powers conceal the truth about the submarine, the more fantastic the stories become....

* Taliban Helped by Ordinary Americans; Florida Rumor [subhead]

* The events in Florida, where several people have been infected *with anthrax, have shaken the whole world. It is still unclear how this could have happened. After all, as we know, only a few states *have anthrax strains and the bacilli are carefully kept in closed laboratories and people cannot gain access to them from the street. How did the terrorists -- if they are to blame -- get to the lethal bacteria? The rumor makers have their theories.

According to one theory the Islamic terrorists were helped by ordinary Americans. Or to be more precise by members of local American extremist groupings. There are quite a few of these in the United States. For instance the "Branch Davidians," the "Texas separatists," the "Militia....' They are al dissatisfied with the country's official authorities and are not averse to scheming against them.

According to the rumors, an activist from one of these sects happened to be working in a top-secret American biological laboratory. The rest was a mere technical matter -- the Taliban found the man they needed, he stole the test tubes they wanted from *work and the result is several American infected with anthrax. The *rumor "carriers" say that the anthrax bacilli were of a specific kind like the strains "cultivated" in America....

Kremlin Has Acquired New Berezovskiy; Kremlin Corridors [subhead]

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Nature abhors a vacuum. Especially in the case of the Kremlin. Rumor has it that new "eminences grises" are taking over from the former ones. Rumor has it that the Presidential Staff is calling a representative of the new generation of oligarchs -- one Mr Pugachev -- nothing less than the second Berezovskiy. Apart from the fact that this gentleman has become a frequent visitor to Putin's reception area and is making friends with the most influential Kremlin officials, so far little is known about him. he is the owner of a large Moscow bank managing a small Moscow television channel. It is also known that the newfound banker's power is based on his close relationship to Aleksandr Voloshin.

The rumors that Pugachev has become definitively established on the political Olympus, overtaking another contender -- the banker Kogan -- in the desperate race to become Berezovskiy's successor began to spread after the insignificant Moscow channel began to gain an entree to film all major events involving the
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SERI SERIAL: WAX2ØØØØ919ØØØ43Ø

COUN COUNTRY: RUSSIA

SUBJ SUBJ: TAKE 4 OF 6--RETIRED ADMIRAL ANALYZES KURSK, OTHER
* SUBMARINE ACCIDENTS (PART 2)

REF REF: 1. CEP2ØØØØ913ØØØ15Ø MOSCOW NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA IN RUSSIAN
13 SEP ØØ ///HOWEVER, IN APRIL

SOUR SOURCE: MOSCOW NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA IN RUSSIAN 13 SEP ØØ

TEXT TEXT:

1989, THE UNIQUE APL KOMSOMOLETS AND 42 MEMBERS OF ITS CREW WERE LOST IN THE NORWEGIAN SEA AS A RESULT OF A FIRE. THE BASIC REASONS *FOR THE LOSS OF THE SUBMARINE AS ESTABLISHED BY A COMMISSION AFTER A YEAR OF INVESTIGATIVE SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL EXPERIMENTATION WERE:

-- INSUFFICIENTLY HIGH-QUALITY SHIP DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION;

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-- INSUFFICIENT STANDARDIZATION AND RELIABILITY OF ARMS AND EQUIPMENT INSTALLED ON THE SHIP;

-- INADEQUATE PERSONNEL TRAINING IN SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES AND USE OF RESCUE EQUIPMENT;

-- INADEQUATE ORGANIZATION OF THE COUNTRY'S SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE; INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT FOR PROTECTING AND RESCUING SUBMARINERS.

BUT THE SYSTEMIC CRISIS WHICH HAS STRUCK OUR COUNTRY IN THE LAST 10-15 YEARS HAS NOT MADE IT POSSIBLE TO INTRODUCE MEASURES FOR ELIMINATING THE CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION WHICH HAD CONDUCTED THE MOST OBJECTIVE AND EFFECTIVE INVESTIGATION INTO SHIP CATASTROPHES IN THE ENTIRE 300-YEAR HISTORY OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY.

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NAVAL ACCIDENTS BASED ON DATA FROM THE NEUTRAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION GREENPEACE RATHER PERSUASIVELY SHOWS THAT THE PROBLEM OF ACCIDENTS, INCLUDING *RELIABILITY IN THE USE OF NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, IS A GENERAL PROBLEM THAT EQUALLY CONCERNS THE NAVIES OF ALL COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUCH SHIPS IN THEIR FLEETS.

THUS, ACCORDING TO GREENPEACE'S INFORMATION, MORE THAN 30 *SUBMARINES HAVE BEEN LOST IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD IN THE WORLD, INCLUDING 11 SOVIET (OF WHICH FOUR WERE NUCLEAR INCLUDING THE KURSK), 4 AMERICAN (2 NUCLEAR), 3 ENGLISH AND 4 FRENCH. IN 1968 *ALONE FOUR SUBMARINES WERE LOST: THE FRENCH MINERVA WITH 52 CREW MEMBERS IN JANUARY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND THE ISRAELI DAKAR WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF CREW; THE SOVIET K-129 WITH 98 CREW MEMBERS IN MARCH IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN; AND THE AMERICAN SCORPION WITH A CREW OF 99 IN MAY IN THE ATLANTIC.

ACCIDENTS IN NATO NAVIES

OVER FIVE YEARS (1983-1987), 56 COLLISIONS, 113 FIRES, 12 CASES *OF RUNNING AGROUND, 85 EXPLOSIONS, AND 48 INCIDENTS OF FLOODING OF INTERNAL COMPARTMENTS AND PREMISES TOOK PLACE IN U.S. NAVY *SUBMARINES. IN 1989 ALONE 71 EMERGENCY INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE ON U.S. *NAVY SHIPS; THIS INCLUDED 34 INVOLVING NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, OF WHICH 8 INVOLVED SSBN'S AND 26 WITH SSN TORPEDOES; AMONG THESE WERE 12 FIRES, 2 GEU [MAIN POWER UNIT] ACCIDENTS, THREE CASES OF RUNNING *AGROUND, AND 9 COLLISIONS. WE HAVE NEVER HAD SUCH A THING IN THE COURSE OF A SINGLE YEAR.

IN 1995 THE GREAT BRITAIN'S NAVY RECORDED 97 FIRES AND CASES OF INSTANTANEOUS COMBUSTION AND 17 CASES OF FLOODING OF SHIP PREMISES. ABOUT FIFTY PERCENT OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHILE THE SHIPS AND VESSELS WERE AT SEA. SOME 75 CASES OF INSTANTANEOUS COMBUSTION *OCCURRED ON SURFACE SHIPS, 10 ON SUBMARINES, AND 12 ON FLEET SUPPORT SHIPS. THESE ARE ONLY INDIVIDUAL EXAMPLES.

AS A WHOLE, OVER THE LAST 5-10 YEARS, THE ACCIDENT RATE ON THE *SUBMARINES OF THE U.S. NAVY AND A NUMBER OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO REMAIN HIGH, IN THE OPINION OF THEIR LEADERS. THIS CONCLUSION IS CONFIRMED BY A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF FACTS. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SPECIALISTS, DESPITE THE ADOPTION OF VARIOUS TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL, AND PRACTICAL MEASURES, AND THE CREATION OF SUPPLEMENTARY SPECIAL ORGANS DESIGNATED MAINLY FOR SOLVING PREVENTION PROBLEMS AND REDUCING ACCIDENT RATES, THESE RATES HAVE NOT YET NOTICEABLY DECLINED IN THE U.S. NAVY AND THE NAVIES OF A NUMBER OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES.

MILITARY CONFRONTATION ON THE SEAS CONTINUES

AN ANALYSIS OF THE STATE AND PROSPECTS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NAVIES OF THE NATO COUNTRIES FOR THE NEXT 25-30 YEARS SHOWS THAT THEY ALL ARE CONTINUING TO GROW STRONGER AND TO IMPROVE THEIR NAVIES. CONSTRUCTION OF MODERN SHIPS CONTINUES IN ACCORDANCE WITH *PROGRAMS ADOPTED EARLIER, INCLUDING SUBMARINES, AND AMONG THESE -- IN THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, AND CHINA -- NUCLEAR *STRIKE SUBMARINES AS WELL AS SUBMARINES ARMED WITH BALLISTIC MISSILES WITH A RANGE OF 8500 TO 11000 KILOMETERS; AND ALSO NUCLEAR AIRCRAFT CARRIERS IN THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE, WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY STRENGTHEN THE COMBAT POTENTIAL OF THESE COUNTRIES' *NAVIES AS WELL AS THE NAVIES OF GERMANY, SWEDEN, TURKEY, ITALY AND JAPAN IN THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY.

* COLLISIONS OF SUBMARINES OF VARIOUS COUNTRIES WHILE SUBMERGED REPRESENTS A SPECIAL DANGER IN THIS DIRECTION, PERSUASIVE EXAMPLES FOR WHICH WERE PRESENTED IN THE BEGINNING OF THIS ARTICLE.

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A SYSTEM OF RULES ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR SHIP PILOTS TO PREVENT COLLISIONS UNDER VARIOUS CONDITIONS IN THE WORLD'S SURFACE NAVIGATION ROUTES EXIST FOR COMBAT, TRADE, AND FISHING SHIPS OF ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. THESE ARE LAID OUT IN THE INTERNATIONAL RULES FOR PREVENTING SHIP COLLISIONS AT SEA, 1972 (MPPSS-72), ADOPTED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MARITIME CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE UN.

WITH THE ENTRY IN THE MID 1960S OF SOVIET NAVY COMBAT VESSELS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, WHERE THE U.S. NAVY'S 6TH FLEET
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SUBJ RUSSIA: TAKE 1 OF 2--Kursk May Have Been Attacked by 'Two Foreign Submarines,' Says Moscow Paper

SERI CEØØØ817Ø214 Moscow Moskovskiy Komsomolets in Russian 18 Aug ØØ
TEXT P 1

[Article by Yuriy Kochergin, Aleksandr Morozov, and Viktor Sokirko: "Last Battle in Barents Sea? Squadron Bends But Does Not Yield..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] As of today there are more than enough theories about the disaster to the multirole nuclear submarine Kursk: from a collision with a World War II mine to poor crew training. The former is put forward by official Russian representatives, the latter by Americans. People have even gone so far as to say that the submarine might have been attacked by...a UFO!

Moskovskiy Komsomolets is publishing another theory which, let us be frank, is equally fantastic. At least three sources agree on the sequence of events discussed below. Thus, in high-ranking circles it was hinted to us, under strict secrecy, that the possibility is not ruled out that the Kursk was attacked by...two foreign submarines and sunk by a powerful MS-48 torpedo.

This information, let us say at once, is absolutely without any documentary confirmation and could be interpreted as just the usual rumors. All the same, we felt we had no right to let it pass unnoticed.

...Spotting the emergence of a large squadron from the Severomorsk base was not so very difficult, and as a consequence two unidentified submarines were hanging around in the region of the large-scale Northern Fleet exercises from the very first day of the maneuvers. That is the established procedure: NATO submarines have been sitting right on the tail of Russian submarines on patrol duty ever since Cold War times. They also track all more or less significant naval exercises, admittedly from a safe distance. The Russian seamen knew very well that there were now two Los Angeles-class US submarines close by. They say that at first they did not get in the way of the progress of the exercises at all -- they kept their distance: After all, the Russian fleet was carrying out live missile launches at training targets.

Then, it is conjectured, the situation changed: The foreign submarines came practically right up to our squadron. In general, according to all the written and unwritten rules, during exercises of this kind any unidentified target that does not respond to signals and questioning is destroyed -- that is a security requirement.

The forces of the Northern Fleet, still according to conjecture, made several threatening maneuvers to drive the persistent submarines further away from the area of the exercises. At first they did not venture to take extreme measures. Not for the time being.

It is not ruled out that on the approach to Severomorsk the nuclear submarine Kursk was ordered to drive away the uninvited guests. The submarine went onto an attack course.

Let us turn to foreign sources. "Two US submarines and the surface reconnaissance ship the Loyal were observing the maneuvers involving the Kursk," a US intelligence spokesman announced in an official press statement. "Contact with the Kursk was lost soon after the US tracking ships intercepted a twice-repeated request from on board the Kursk to fire two torpedoes. After that there was a big explosion, recorded by US reconnaissance ships."

Could it be that the commanding officer of the Kursk, Captain First Rank Gennadiy Lyachin, had one of the enemy boats in his sights (to all appearances, he did not detect the second)? Who knows? Maybe a request to fire torpedoes was submitted to the command. It seems that he received the command, only not to fire for effect, but as a warning -- a double shot across the bow and stern of the enemy submarine to show that they were not joking. Let us remind you that all this is only at the level of

conjecture. According to this scenario, the enemy fixed the launch and fired a return salvo which the Kursk managed to dodge with an antitorpedo maneuver. Our submarine soared up from a depth of 80 meters to 30 and prepared to surface -- the raised antennas on the sail indicate this. And then the most unexpected thing may have happened: The Kursk was hit during the countermove by a torpedo from the second submarine (the one it had not noticed). This time the Russian submarine did not manage to dodge...

An interesting fact: A few days after this, as one of our sources informed us, a certain Western special service carried out satellite photography of the Kursk lying on the bottom of the Barents Sea. The conclusion of the foreign experts was this: The nature of the damage to the boat and its position on the sea bed are consistent with...a torpedo hit in close fighting by a ship at a distance of 20-25 cables (about 4,500 meters).

However, if you believe all of this and think that the foreign experts correctly analyzed the situation that led to the sinking of the Kursk, it remains unclear why our submarine did not report the underwater battle by radio.

...The other day Putin and Clinton had an unplanned 25-minute telephone conversation the details of which are being kept secret.

P.S. At the Navy Main Staff press service we were informed that among the official theories that exist at present, only the hypothesis of a collision between the Russian submarine and a foreign submarine is being considered. The theory about damage to the hull of the nuclear submarine Kursk by a live torpedo or
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